



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
January 2014 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 23, Issue 1



## TechFest Month



**ATTENTION: TechFest 2014 is Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>!**

# Message From The President

**H**appy New year! I hope you had fantastic holidays. A new year means new opportunities for expanding our Amateur Radio horizons. Be it putting up new antennas, making new homebrew equipment, buying new equipment, exploring a new band or mode, or even just setting goals of making new contacts, there is *always* something new for us to explore in this hobby. This is one reason we host TechFest. It does not matter if you are brand new, experienced, or not even a ham at all, you can come out to TechFest and learn something new about Amateur Radio from all the demonstrations and forums.



Kyle Albritton—W4KDA

**T**echFest is a great place to get your Amateur Radio interest stimulated and your questions answered. We also provide free lunch and chili from our famous chili cook-off. The event is free and many clubs assist GARS with this event by hosting tables on specific Amateur Radio related topics. It is a great community oriented learning event that is just plain fun. Be sure to make sure to attend and enjoy.

**A**t the GARS Holiday Party last month, not only did we have a great time, but we also named Ray Bailey, N4GYN, as the 2013 GARS Ham Of The Year. We have many, hard working, dedicated GARS members who deserved this award, but Ray managed to stand out from the rest of the spectacular crowd this year. There is more about this elsewhere in the issue, but let me invite you all to please join me in thanking Ray for all his years of service to GARS and to the hobby.

**I** look forward to seeing each and every one of you at TechFest and the January GARS meeting.

**A**s always, may you have great health, wealth, and all your contacts be 59,

*Kyle,* **W4KDA**



# GARS January Meeting



## - 100 Things Every Amateur Radio Operator Should Know -

by Rich Arland, K7SZ

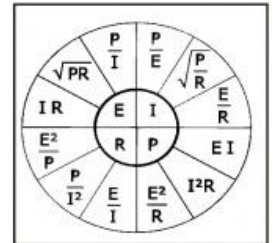


**Meetings** are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm.  
(except December)



**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1**  
**690 Airport Road**  
**Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions](#)



E = voltage I = current  
R = resistance P = power

## Ham Of The Year 2013

Our own Ray Bailey, N4GYN was elected “Ham Of The Year” for 2013.

The criteria for selecting the HOTY for 2013 are the following:

- Helpful to members new and old
- Comes to all our events
- Enjoys digital and voice modes
- Home brewer
- A bit of a DXer
- Extremely active GARS member
- This person helped this year to get Boy Scouts on the air
- I have seen this person drop what they were doing in order to help or answer questions for another ham
- Has helped teach GARS classes
- Has run many nets for GARS
- We are lucky to have in our club
- Is NCS on Maritime Mobile Service Net and 7272 Rag Chew Net



“These are just some of the reasons Ray Bailey is GARS 2013 HOTY”, said President Kyle, W4KDA. “Ray is also our newsletter editor, and takes photos for us at events. He's a pilot, a musician, a Mason, the President of his Homeowners Association, and is an all around great guy.”



Ray was really surprised, standing in the back of the room with camera ready to take pictures of the 2013 Ham Of The Year. His wife Sherryl realized that Kyle was talking about **him** and quickly took over the camera. Sandy, KJ4DRO said “I wish I could have a picture of the look on your face, Ray” [or something to that effect]



# In Memory of KI4GRJ - Ray Back, SK



**Born in Atlanta, GA on August 13, 1985**  
**Departed on December 30, 2013**

Marvin "Ray" Back, 28, of Lawrenceville, GA, passed away on January 30, 2013. He died of complications from pneumonia at the Gwinnett Medical Center in his hometown. Ray was born in Atlanta to Steve and Mary Ann Back on August 13, 1985.

Ray was proud of being an Eagle Scout and was an active member of several local Boy Scout groups. He served as an Assistant Scout Master and the Webmaster in Troop 514. He was a founding member of Amateur Radio Venturing Crew 73, in which he served as an Associate Advisor. He was also a member of the Apalachee District Committee—the Boy Scout District for Northern Gwinnett County—in which he served as the District's Webmaster. For all his work on its website, the District awarded him the District Award of Merit in 2007 and named him Scouter of the Year in 2012.

Additionally, he received the Vigil Honor in the Boy Scouts' National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow, where he also served as the Webmaster of the local Canantutlaga Chapter. Ray was a licensed Amateur Radio operator, call sign KI4GRJ, and member of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society. He combined his love for Amateur Radio and his love for Scouting by working in support of Jamboree on the Air, an annual Boy Scout event that uses Amateur Radio to link Scouts around the world. Ray was also a founding member of the *North-east Georgia Council Radio Club*. *His determination and unique sense of humor will be missed by all who knew and loved him.*

## **Testimonies: ( There were many. Here is a sampling from members of GARS).**

### ***Jeff Cutchins—AB4HF***

Ray was a bright Light shining on the dreary rainy cold day when we had J.O.T.A. Jamboree On The Air (Boy Scouts) this year. The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society helped demonstrate Amateur Radio for the Scouts. Ray was a Ham Radio Operator and a Scout. At the event, everyone was feeling a bit melancholy because of the dreary cold weather. But not Ray! He was excited and bouncing around. He said "I can do that" or "I know just how my Dad likes it done". His "can do" attitude lifted my spirit and others too. He was "johnny on the spot". He set it up and took it down and loved every minute of it! I miss you Ray.

### ***Earl Whatley—AF4FG***

Words cannot express our sorrow. We will always remember Ray and his "can do" attitude. May God comfort you in your grief. May we help you in your time of need and may you feel free to call us for any reason.

### ***F. John Solman—K9YB***

I have never met your son Ray, but his accomplishments in Scouting and in use of Amateur Radio say great things about his values and hard work for good activities for youth in your community.

My encouragement and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

### ***Allison Lynch - KZ3JFY***

Steve, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers. May you feel God's loving arms around you and His strength to hold you up. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

### ***Ray Bailey—N4GYN***

I never knew Ray, but after hearing all the stories about him at the funeral, I felt like I had known him all his life. It was so moving to see how many folks got up and spoke so warmly, so lovingly about Ray. Dear Steve and family, please know that I am praying that God will give you his unspeakable peace in your time of sorrow and assure you of a wonderful reunion on the other side. God Bless and sustain you! Amen.



# Beginner's Corner

By David Harden, KJ4CMY

I would like to thank the editor of the GARzette for giving me this opportunity to start this column. I will try to provide some information for all the new hams in the club. Getting your Amateur Radio license is an accomplishment, but it is only the beginning of a fun and rewarding hobby.

I had been exposed to Ham Radio since my Cub Scout days. A Ham Radio operator came to our pack meeting and had several HF QSOs (Contacts) with several other hams. Being a radio geek, it never struck me that I could be a Ham Radio operator, as well. Fast forward to the present. I had been a medium wave radio DX-er without even knowing it. This was back when the good music was all on AM radio. I would listen to stations all over the eastern half of the country. After returning from a two-year stint in England, I wanted to keep abreast of what was happening over there. I knew that the BBC broadcast on short wave, so I pulled out the cheapie multi-band portable radio and found them. I found other stations, as well. I became both a short wave listener and a DX-er. I was hooked!



Well, all good things are supposed to come to an end, and short wave broadcasting is one of them. What is a confirmed radio junkie to do? I remembered my exposure over the years to Ham Radio. I was also interested in learning emergency communications. Amateur Radio entered my life. I was licensed in 2008, and have enjoyed it ever since.

When I got into Amateur Radio, I pretty much had to "learn the ropes" by myself. I have heard that half of all Amateur Radio licensees never even get on the air. What a pity! I knew that I was going to be active in my new-found hobby. I had a background in radio and electronics, and that sustained me. After being active in the hobby for a few months, I wanted to give back to the hobby. Remembering my early days in Amateur Radio, I was determined to help other new Hams.

## **Got my license, now what?**

Now, this brings me to my first point. Every new Ham should have an Elmer. What is an Elmer? According to Wikipedia, the term first appeared in the March 1971 issue of QST Magazine, the official publication of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, coined the term: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'" Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."

I believe the first order of business for all new hams is to get themselves an "Elmer". How do I get one? GARS is a club that is new ham friendly. Just ask any club official. He or she will point you in the direction of the person in charge of the Elmer program. More to come.

73 *de David Harden*, KJ4CMY



# TechFest is Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>

With Techfest 2014 coming up in January, I thought this would be a perfect time to share my review of this event from earlier [last] year. While there is no question that Amateur Radio is a technical hobby, I'm often more interested in some of the social practices and customs of its participants than I am in some technological apparatus or the movement of electrons to and fro. That's what makes this event interesting to me- you get the technology and then someone who wants to tell you all about it. Maybe my review will be of interest to you.

"The hamfest that isn't" could be the tag line that the [Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society](#) should use to describe the gathering they hold in early January at the Gwinnett Medical Training center. The chief criteria for an event to be considered a hamfest is that it must have its main focus centered of the exchange of ham related merchandise and services, presentations, table displays, examinations for licenses, food and fellowship; but the event must be mostly commercial to truly be a hamfest. Techfest has everything one could need for an event to be considered a hamfest, except there are no commercial vendors present. The main focus of the event is to share your knowledge with other hams about whatever interest you are pursuing in the hobby at the moment. This can be anything from RTTY operation to APRS positioning software and everything in between. You get exposed to other peoples interests, which I think is a good thing as there is plenty of room in Amateur Radio for everyone and their particular slice of the hobby.

It's a great venue and event- the venue recently changed from a church basement to the much larger Gwinnett Medical Training Center. The new accommodations have comfortable chairs and spacious tables located next to many outlets evenly spaced along the wall. The tables line the perimeter of the large carpeted room which leaves plenty of room for the expected crowd to mingle. The only negative feature is the difficult access for any antenna setup (if needed) to be used in a table display. This can be overcome by using a recording for any necessary display needs you may have. You can read the most up to date news about Techfest [here](#) and take a video tour [here](#).



The organizer, point man, and ombudsman for the event is Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, or as some call him, "the patron saint of Techfest." He is, without question, chief of the cat herders- organizing an event of any size isn't always easy, and trying to round up enough people to put on displays and give talks takes a considerable amount of time. I shudder to think about the amount of work Norm and his crew of magic elves invests in getting this organized and executed. Thanks Norm & Co.!

Of course, no mention of Techfest would be complete without mentioning what many find to be the best part- other than the fierce competition for best chili and the randomness of luck in the drawing for all sorts of cool items- is the free food. It's quite a spread with lots of hot dogs and burgers with drinks and snacks on the side. Everyone brings enough chili and everyone gets to have a bowl. I've spoken about the chili cook off [elsewhere](#), so I won't duplicate that effort here, but I will suggest that perhaps you should make the trip to Techfest just for this!



There were quite a few exhibitors this year, though I couldn't tell if there were more people in attendance last year than this year or not. Last year, I came and only stayed for an hour or so, as I had just had hand surgery that week and was a little under the weather, as you can imagine. This year, I didn't have that difficulty and really got to take in the event and enjoy it.



Of the exhibits on display this year, [2013] I believe the most activity was generated by the [Freeside](#) tables, manned by Randy Farmer, N4FET (Randy also is a member of the [Atlanta Robotics Club](#)). Freeside Atlanta is a hackerspace located on Metropolitan Parkway (formerly Stewart Ave.) in a warehouse space which once housed an

*(Continued on page 7)*



# TechFest is Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>

(Continued from page 6)

ammunition plant for munitions produced during WW2. There were a collection of devices on hand- 3D printing, lighting that could change color in response to a tweet and all sorts of other neat things.

While Freeside may have generated the most interest, the loudest noise was generated by their neighbor, AB2CD, Jim Phillips and his creation, The Learning Center. I didn't get a chance to speak with Jim or his wife who were demonstrating a Tesla coil, which what was making all the racket, but it appeared that many children seemed to enjoy the demonstration, and that's the important thing.



I visited with the [Southeastern VHF Society](#) for about half the event (I spent the other half with Newt, N4EWT and Jim, N4BFR visiting and checking out the other displays) and visited with Charles, K4CSO, Mike, KC4RI and met Bob, W4ZST. Bob brought his laptop which had pictures of he camprground the [W4NH Fourlanders](#) group mounts their VHF contesting efforts from. Bob has everyone over to his garage/shack for the January contest- never know how the weather is going to go in a North Georgia January! A lot of history with the W4NH group and I'd wish there was more time to go over the many different slideshow/photos and memories that Bob brought along.

Ran into a couple of different hams from around town. Atlanta's "[Time Nut](#)," John Ackerman, N8UR, (from whom I later purchased an Icom W32A) was in attendance and chatting with the ringleader, Norm, as seen above. John has a very neat setup on his website, which [shows active lightning strikes around his QTH](#). Dayton Hamvention's Ham of the Year, Jim Stafford, W4QO, was in attendance and seen helping children

learn to solder at the kit building station. Got to meet Phil Graciter, W3HZZ, who made the comment that, "no one seems to feel the pressure to learn CW that you do voice," which certainly makes sense, as none of us are born with keys in our hands!

I did at least do a "drive by" of the many different tables and exhibits, of which there is a list below for your review, and am sorry I didn't get to visit with every one. There is a lot to see, friends to catch up with and free food. Somehow, this makes the time go quickly and hungry for next year to hurry up!



Lastly, the QCWA club was there- get to join in a couple more years!

**Chase** *Turner*, W4TI





# Odds & Ends

## You need a blivet

Posted: 03 Jan 2014 01:38 PM PST

Brad, AA1IP, wrote to the Glowbugs group:

Disappointed and grumpy because ol' Santa Claus didn't bring you any radio-related presents? Put on your 22, get on your toes and tap dance out an order for a Blivet or Blivette to restore your holiday cheer! For \$9.87, you receive a small USPS Priority flat-rate mail carton— a Blivette— stuffed with miscellaneous electronic parts: some are old, some are new, some are used and removed from equipment, and some are blew, er, blue.

For \$23.23, you receive a medium USPS Priority flat-rate mail carton— a Blivet— stuffed with the same contents as above, only more so.

Note that the price of a Blivet or Blivette includes postage to U.S. addresses only. Overseas postage charges are steep.

Questions welcomed, PayPal honored. Please make sure that your PayPal invoice includes your preferred USPS delivery address.

Now go build a radio!

I just sent off for a Blivette. I'll let you know what I get.

The post **You need a blivet** appeared first on **KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog**.

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## Amateur Radio Showing Steady Growth in the US

01/08/2014 (via ARRL.org)

The Amateur Radio population in the US has continued to show steady growth. As of the end of 2013, the FCC database showed 717,201 [licenses](#) in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)). That's the greatest number of US hams ever and up from 709,575 in December 2012. The [volume](#) of Amateur Radio applications slowed somewhat to 141,943 from its zenith of 176,826 in 2007, the year the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement.

"The three current license classes also peaked at the end of 2013," notes ARRL [VEC](#) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "FCC-issued club station licenses are also at an all-time high in the FCC database at 11,363. The number of new licensees has increased by 7 percent over last year (28,886 in 2013 and 27,082 in 2012)." Somma said that a significant number of Technician licensees were earned through large emergency communication and Community Emergency Response Team ([CERT](#)) classes.

The breakdown by license class shows Technicians as the largest group, at 349,163 licensees, followed by General licensees at 167,257, Amateur Extra licensees at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. There are still slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees on record too. The FCC no longer issues the Novice or Advanced class license. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade, with an impressive comeback since 2007 after the population had plummeted from a peak of 338,334 in March 2000. The General class population has risen by slightly more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has shown the most remarkable growth over the past decade, climbing by slightly more than 27 percent, with no dramatic spike after the Morse requirement went away.

For more on this story, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-showing-steady-growth-in-the-us>



# Ham Radio News

## Ham radio in the news: Hong Kong, Wales, young hams, and more

Posted: 30 Dec 2013 01:30 PM PST

*[for the rest of each story, click on the blue headings here in the .pdf version of the GARzette. Ed]*

**Hong Kong's ham radio enthusiasts lend a helping hand.** More than just a hobby and a way to socialise, Amateur Radio provides vital communications to ensure the safe running of Hong Kong's charity events.



**Gwent radio hams ready to help in emergency.** They are helping to guard the public in the event of a disaster, but you may not have even heard of them. Gwent's RAYNET group – a bunch of licensed Amateur Radio enthusiasts who help the emergency services in the event of a communications meltdown – is part of a national organisation celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

**Lake [County] Amateur Radio operator gets top marks.** Lake County [FL] Amateur Radio operators, often called hams, brought home the bacon in a national Field Day event held earlier this year, it was announced Thursday.



**Young hams make the grade.** Surrounded by radio gear, Gene Clark sat in his chair and listened intently as his two sixth grade proteges were interviewed by a reporter recently. Dalton Duggers, 11, and Jordan Sirmans, 12, recently earned their radio technician's licenses, making them two of the youngest licensed ham radio operators in Georgia. The two friends are members of the Albany Amateur Radio Club (AARC) and are in the Gifted Program at Merry Acres Middle School.

**Okanogan [County, Tonasket, WA] Amateur Radio Club recognizes first concrete pouring at Grand Coulee Dam.** Dec. 6th, 1935, was the first "ceremonious pour" of concrete at **Grand Coulee Dam**. It was the first of a total of 12 million yards, which is enough to pour a sidewalk around the world at the equator twice. The Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club W7ORC sponsored a special event to celebrate the anniversary of the that pouring. Club members used their home radio stations, commonly referred to as "HAM SHACKS," starting at 4 p.m. Dec 6, and ended at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec 8.

**Family saved by ham radio and Good Samaritan after car accident.** On a cold, bitter night earlier this month, the actions of a Good Samaritan and a ham radio probably saved the lives of a family. It began at about 7 p.m. Dec. 6 when Cody Fowler and his wife, Tina, and their two sons, Jacob and Timmy, were on their way home from Pueblo. Because of the bitter cold temperatures and the icy roads, Cody turned around and drove back down the road, where he discovered that a red SUV had slid off into a ditch. The five people in the car had climbed back onto the road.... - for the Rest-Of-The-Story, click on the blue heading above.

The post **Ham radio in the news: Hong Kong, Wales, young hams, and more** appeared first on **KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog**.



# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in December

**Andrew Campbell (KK4WEJ)**

**William Douglas (WB4WHD)**

**Robert Hensey (KK4VBM)**

**Frederick Love (KK4VEP)**

**James Thompson (KK4WET)**

**Phillip Turner (KK4WEU)**

David Wilson (KK4WEV)

**New Members: 7**

**Total Members as of January 1, 2014  
- 254 -**

Join us for our weekly breakfast gathering  
at 7:30 AM Most Saturdays at:

Golden Corral

2155 Riverside Parkway

Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

Also, before our Tuesday meeting you are invited  
to join other GARS members and guests dining at:

The Flying Machine (starting about 5:30 PM)

510 Briscoe Blvd. NE

Lawrenceville, GA

[\(Directions\)](#)

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in January:**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

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**Terry Cantrell (W4WTC)**

**Hal Collier (W4IGE)**

**Randy Collins (N4COR)**

**Mike Cottrell (KJ4EIE)**

**John Craig (KK4JXU)**

**Barry Edwards (W4BWE)**

**Georgia Florea (KI4OXV)**

**Gregg Freeman (KK4GWG)**

**Ruth Jones (K4RHJ)**

**Dorothy Jubon (N2DLJ)**

**David Kuechenmeister (N4KD)**

**William Pettit (K4ENQ)**

**Grant Porter (KG4SDR)**

**Kirk Reeves (KK4CDC)**

**Michael Stebnicki (KJ4PQZ)**

**Newton White (N4EWT)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.),  
please email the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

**Membership** Chairman: Rick Cobb, N4XYX

Committee Members: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP; Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY.



# Net Managers Corner

Hello Everyone from N4LNE, GARS Net Manager.

I want to thank everyone for taking the time to check in to the nets and I especially wish to thank the NCS and ANCS stations for their time and effort.

Please think about adding *your* name to the list as NCS or ANCS.

## Monday Night Net Stats

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK INS</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>ANCS</u>
12/02/2013	28	John WB4QDX	none
12/09/2013	29	Ray N4GYN	Mike KK4HS
12/16/2013	28	Hal W4IGE	Allison KZ3JFY
12/23/2013	22	Norm WA4ZXV	Allison KZ3JFY
12/30/2013	35	Sandy KJ4DRO	Jeff AB4HF

## Wednesday Night "Know It All" Net Stats

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK INS</u>	<u>NCS</u>	<u>ANCS</u>
12/04/2013	15	Jeff AB4HF	Nick KK4TTW
12/11/2013	28	Jeff AB4HF	Jim KK4LDD
12/18/2013	15	Jeff AB4HF	-
12/25/2013	0	No Net -Christmas 2013	

73'

See you on the Nets!

*Phil,* N4LNE  
Net Manager



## TOPICS for the "KNOW IT ALL" Net Thursday nights, 8-9:30 pm

Jan-01 No Net-New Years Day  
Jan-08 TechFest  
Jan-15 Antennas  
Jan-22 New Ham FAQs  
Jan-29 Digital Ham Radio

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a "KNOW IT ALL".

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 147.075, PL 82.5**



## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

( All names of contests are Links in .pdf version)

### January

1 [Straight Key Night](#)  
4-5 [RTTY Roundup](#)  
5 [Kids Day](#)  
18-20 [January VHF](#)

### February

10-14 [School Club Roundup](#)  
15-16 [International DX – CW](#)

### March

1-2 [International DX– Phone](#)

### April

20 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

### June

14-16 [June VHF](#)  
15 [Kids Day](#)  
28-29 [Field Day](#)

### January VHF—Details:

**Objective:** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

### February School Club Roundup—Details:

**Objective:** To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, or high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.

Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs.

Award certificates will be issued for the following US and DX categories:

**Schools:** Elementary, Middle/Intermediate/Junior High School, High School and College/University

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

01/11/2014 | [Greenwood, SC Hamfest 2014](#)

Location: Greenwood, SC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Greenwood Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://w4gwd.org>

01/25/2014 | [Georgia ARES Convention](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Georgia ARES  
Website: <http://GAARES.org>

02/22/2014 | [Dalton Hamfest](#)

Location: Dalton, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://daltonhamfest.com>

03/01/2014 | [Alabama Section Convention \(BirminghamHamfest 2014\)](#)

Location: Birmingham, AL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Birmingham ARC  
Website: <http://BirminghamFest.org>

03/15/2014 | [Ellijay Ham Fest](#)

Location: Ellijay, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Ellijay Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://www.w4hhh.org>

03/29/2014 | [Thomasville ARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Thomasville, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Thomasville Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://thomasvilleamateurradioclub.com/hamfest/>

# BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology,  
**Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
 Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
 Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

*We enjoy:*

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

**Steve Back, WB2OGY**

Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069

Email: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

**Jeff Lee, AF4JL**

Venture Crew 73 Advisor

Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: [advisor@venturecrew73.org](mailto:advisor@venturecrew73.org)



## GARS Officers and Committee Chairs

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA  
President



Earl Whatley, AF4FG  
Vice President



Hal Collier, W4IGE  
Secretary



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
Treasurer, Apparel Manager



Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO  
Program Manager



Rick Cobb, N4XYY  
Membership Chairman



Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Webmaster, Field Day Chairman



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
Public Information Officer



Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV  
TechFest Chairman



Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
GARzette Editor



Jeff Cutchins, AB4HF  
Multimedia Chairman



John Ackermann, N8UR  
W4GR Trustee



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Repeater Chairman



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
WAS-Checker, Historian



Phil McCleary, N4LNE  
Net Manager, ELMER Chair



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Technical Advisor



## GARS Communications

2 Meter Repeater  
147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

APRS  
144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

D-Star  
WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

Main Repeater Site  
Oak Street,  
Lawrenceville

2 Meter Repeater  
147.255(+) MHz  
107.2 PL Tone

6 Meter Repeater  
53.110 (-1 MHz)  
82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeaters  
444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone  
442.100(+)  
82.5 PL Tone

Backup Repeater Site  
Lanier Mountain,



## For What it's Worth

Recently I have been hearing some Hams saying they are having a problem with the SWR and/or Power on their mobile setup. After asking questions, I discovered that they don't have a direct ground from the chassis of the radio to the body of their vehicle. This is really important to maintain an RF ground. If the only connection to ground is the power cable to the battery, then there is a length of cable (ground side of battery connection) that can act as a RF radiator and allows the radio to be at a different potential than direct-to-ground. In some cases the only ground is the antenna cable. This can lead to other problems like DC currents on the coax, and can eventually cause corrosion at the antenna ground. For best results it is wise to ground your radio chassis with the shortest lead possible to a bolt that is connected to the body/frame of the vehicle. **HAPPY MOBILING!**

*Ray* - N4GYN

Take a look at AmateurLogic.tv here:  
[http://www.amateurlogic.tv/transmitter/video/amlogic61\\_hd.mp4](http://www.amateurlogic.tv/transmitter/video/amlogic61_hd.mp4) Check it out at 22:00 into the video.

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ◆ Every Monday at 8 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2-meter repeater
- ◆ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 2-meter repeater
- ◆ Every Thursday at 9 pm: GARS Round Table Net, 2 & 6 Meters

Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2013

Meeting occurred after dinner at the GARS Holiday Party.

Kyle called for committee reports:

Treasurer's report – presented by treasurer, Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC.

Membership report – available in the *Garzette*. GARS currently has 258 members.

Program Manager:

The January meeting program will be "100 Things Every Amateur Radio Operator Should Know" by Rich Arland, K7SZ

Techfest will be on January 11<sup>th</sup>. More volunteers are needed. An ICOM IC-7100 will be raffled off for the event. Admission is free. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$5, or 5 for \$20.

GARS is a 501c3 organization and any donations are tax deductible.

GARS has worked all 50 states and earned its DXCC award.

The GARS Ham of the Year award was presented to Ray Bailey, N4GYN.

Prize drawings were held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

*Hal, W4IGE, Secretary*

## Learn to Solder

Are you a new Ham or know a youngster who would like to learn how to solder and build a fun electronics kit in the process?

If so, the TechFest NFARL booth is just the place for you. Experienced instructors will guide you through the construction of a fun and practical electronics kit in less than one hour. The cost is FREE and all you or your young friend need to do is show up for the FUN!

If you would like to reserve a seat (not necessary, but it guarantees a seat), just drop an e-mail with the time you wish (9, 10, 11 or noon) to: [savemyseat@att.net](mailto:savemyseat@att.net). TechFest is on Saturday, Jan. 11th, and all the details can be found here: <http://www.gars.org/w4gr/>

-----  
*Chuck*, AE4CW

Chief Solderer

### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	7 6:30 - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	8 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	9	10	11 <b>2014 TECHFEST 9:00am-2:00pm</b>	12 2nd Sunday Ham Exam- See Page 16
13 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	14 <b>5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner at Flying Machine</b>  <b>7:00-9:00 pm GARS Meeting</b>	15 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	16	17	18 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive	19
20 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	21	22 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	23	24	25 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive	26
27 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	28	29 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	30 <b>6:00 am-2:00 pm DOG SHOW</b>	31 <b>6:00 am-2:00 pm DOG SHOW</b>	<b>6:00 am-2:00 pm DOG SHOW</b>	1 2



Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results for	Metro Club Meetings
<p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</i></p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b> 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov) WCARS VEC Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b> 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) WCARS VEC Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b> ARRL VEC 8:30 a.m. Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Varone, W4ETN (770) 978-3179</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm Gwinnett County Fire Station #5 3001 Old Norcross Road Duluth, GA 30096 Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR Email: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b> VEC: W5YI 3 pm (Except December) Auburn City Hall Council Room 1369 Fourth Avenue Auburn, GA Steve Donellan, N5SMD (404) 520-0368  (cont. next column)</p>	<p>We had a very good exam session last month!</p> <p>10 applicants tested and ALL passed!</p> <p>- 4 new Technicians - 6 Upgraded to General</p> <p><u>Thanks to the following VE's:</u></p> <p>- Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE) - Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE) - Don Bagby, KK4NJM - Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN</p> <p>Thanks &amp; 73's,</p> <p><i>Sid Weaver,</i> N4NQ</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p>GARS VE Website: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ARS_VE_Team/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ARS_VE_Team/</a></p>	<p><b>First Tuesday</b> Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b> Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b> Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b> Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)</p>
	<p><b>Fourth Tuesday</b> ARRL VEC 7 pm @ United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770) 942-6466</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday</b> 2:30 pm Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr. See <a href="http://www.w4aql.com">www.w4aql.com</a> Alexander G. Carver (404) 894-2936 <a href="mailto:acarver@ece.gatech.edu">acarver@ece.gatech.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Second Saturday</b> North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center at 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b> North Fulton Amateur Radio League Masonic Lodge 194 Milton Avenue Alpharetta, Georgia meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-)</p> <p>For more, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p>

## Second Sunday Tech Session

The monthly meeting of the "Second Sunday Tech Session" will be **Sunday, January 12th at 3:00pm** in the main conference room at the main administration building of **Dekalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) in Chamblee**. The building is at the end of the main entrance to the airport - just follow the road off Clairemont down to the cul-de-sac parking lot at its end. The conference room is in the building marked "Epps". Come in the main entrance take the stairs at the left, the room is on the left at the top of the stairs—room 227. Talk-in (unofficial) is on the 146.820 machine (minus with 146.2 PL). Most times simplex 146.520 is also monitored.

We will be learning how to build PL-259 connectors and doing them (this is "hands on" sessions after all), building SO-239s, learning and building Anderson Power Poles, ringer and spade terminals, and fixing whatever needs to be fixed.

Also, of course, when dealing with these things you also need to learn techniques for soldering, crimping, stripping insulation, and so on. And my favorite, blow-torch use.

So if you have coax and need connectors on it, bring it on, power poles, same. Any sort of wire you need attached to something, bring it too. And if you have learned something interesting and want to teach others, come on down and join us. This is not a repair service but a chance to learn some basic skills of repair you can use yourself or pick up some tricks someone else has learned. And of course, have a good time. Some snacks and soft drinks will be provided, feel free to bring your own to share too.

See you there and then.

*Bill Perkins*—KB4KFT

### The GARzette

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by email to [n4gyn@arrl.net](mailto:n4gyn@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)





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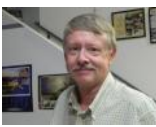


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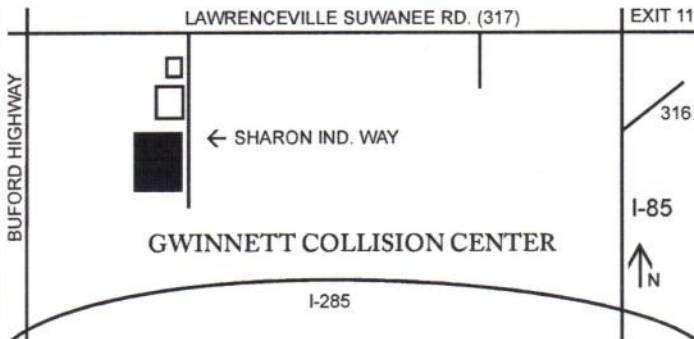
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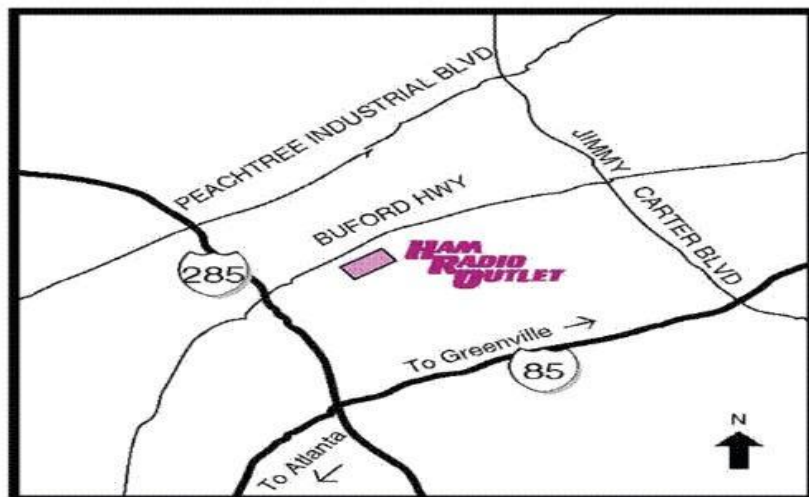
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